

*Memorandum on the city of Shikarpoor, in Upper Sindh. By Lieut.
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Shikarpore may be considered the most important town in the Shikarpore—its country of Sindh in point of trade, population, and position. influence. It is situated in Upper Sindh, or above Sindh proper, at a distance of twenty-four miles NW. from the Indus at Sukhur, about forty miles from the edge of the desert at Rojhan, which separates Upper Sindh from Cutchee.

Shikarpore dates its origin to the year of the Hijira 1026, (A.D. 1617) Origin. is an ill built dirty town, its walls in a state of dilapidation and decay, the consequence of the total neglect and apathy of the chiefs of the country to the improvement of their possessions, further shewn in the neglect of the Sindh. A canal flows within a mile of the city towards Larkhana, providing means of irrigation to a large tract of country, and a temporary, but important water communication from the Indus, during a few months of the year.

The houses in Shikarpore are built of unburnt brick, upper roomed, Description of and some of those belonging to the wealthiest the city. Sonears are of respectable size, and convenient. The streets are narrow, confined, and dirty in the extreme; the great Bazar, which is the centre of all trade and banking transactions, for which Shikarpore is celebrated, extends for a distance of 800 yards, running immediately through the centre of the city. It is, in common with the Bazars of all towns in Sindh, protected from the oppressive heat by mats stretched from the houses on either side; this although it imparts an appearance of coolness, occasions by the stagnation of air an insufferable, close, and evidently unwholesome atmosphere, evinced in the sickly appearance of those who pass nearly the whole of their time in the shops and counting houses. This Bazar is generally thronged with people, and though there is little display of merchandize, the place has the air of bustle and importance which it merits. The walls of Shikarpore—also of unburnt brick—have been allowed to remain so totally without repairs that they no longer deserve the name of a protection to the city; they enclose a space of 3831 yards in circumference.

There are eight gates. The suburbs of Shikarpore are very extensive, and a great portion of the population calculated as belonging to the city reside outside, particularly the Mahomedans and labouring classes. With the exception of one tolerable Musjied on the southern side, Shikarpore possesses no building of importance.

By a census taken with considerable care during the preceding month, the following is a return of the inhabitants of this city, including the suburbs:—

HINDOOS.

Males, 9,494 } 18,913 souls. Houses 3,686.
Females, 9,419 }

MAHOMEDANS.

Males, 4,556, } 8,647 souls. Houses 1,806
Females, 4,091 }

In detail thus:—Hindoos divided according to professions—

Hindoos.	Grain sellers,	...	...	...	...	64
	Confectioners,	...	...	...	...	56
	Cotton sellers,	...	...	...	...	12
	Soucars,	...	..	...	...	35
	Shroffs,	...	...	...	...	66
	Cloth merchants,	...	...	...	...	65
	Goldsmiths,	...	...	...	...	94
	Dealers in Drugs,	...	...	...	...	32
	————— Metal,	...	...	...	...	17
	————— Silk,	..	...	...	...	37
	————— Enamel,	...	...	...	...	19
	————— Perfumes,	...	...	.	...	11
	Vegetable and Milk sellers,	...	...	...	...	46
	Dealers in dry fruit,	...	...	...	...	67
	Do. salt and sundries,	...	...	...	...	249
	Ivory turners,	...	...	..	..	3
	Total Hindoo Shops,					923*

* The remainder of the Hindoos are composed of Brahmins, and those who are not shopkeepers.

The Mahomedans divided according to trades, &c.—

Mahomedans. Weavers of coarse cloths,	1554
Dyers and washermen,	1248
Oil pressers,	50
Weavers of mats,	30
Tailors,	300
Barbers,	244
Shoemakers and workers in leather,	305
Ironmongers,	290
Embroiderers,	95
Lapidaries,	164
Potters,	103
Cotton cleaners,	121
Butchers,	89
Carpenters,	246
Preparers of woollen mamids,	33
Labourers,	467
Musicians and singers,	267
Cossids,	83
Syuds and Moolahs,	433
Cultivators,	2389
Gardeners,	47
Total,	8,647

Independent of the above, there are altogether 1001 Affghans and Pattans in the city of Shikarpore, employed as cultivators, or for Police duties by the Government; they are of the following tribes.—Populzyge—2. Pishengee (Syuds); 3. Bamkzye; 4. Moorzye; 5. Eesakzye; 6. Mogal; 7. Lukoozye; 8. Dooraanee; 9. Baber; 10. Oosteranee; 11. Monim; 12. Kakut; 13. Ghilzee; 14. Bureeh; 15. Burdarame; 16. ———; 17. Babee; 18. Dureanee; 19. Owan; 20. Prumee.

It will be seen from the above that the population of Shikarpore may be calculated at 29,700, say 30,000 souls, of whom 9,647, say 10,000, or one-third, are Mahomedans. In the above are also included many Hindoos, who are employed in distant countries as agents from the Soucars.

The Hindoos carry on all the trade, while the cultivation and artizanship of almost every denomination is in the hands of the Mahomedans.

The dress of the Hindoos of Shikarpore varies little from that of the same class in other parts of India, except in those who are servants of the native Governments, as deputies or collectors of revenue, and these invariably adopt the beard of Mahomed and costume of Sindh. On their habits of life and religious observances, the Hindoos of this city, as indeed throughout the whole of the Mahomedan countries westward of the Indus, indulge in a degree of laxity, totally at variance with the strict rules by which they generally profess to be regulated; they possess however an unusual degree of influence at Shikarpore, and are too valuable to the financial resources of the country not to be permitted to maintain it.

With the exception of the Moolahs and Syudhs, few of the Mahomedans of this city are either wealthy or influential. The Affghan Zamindars who under that rule held important possessions in the vicinity, and were men of note and consideration, have been gradually stripped of their rights by the Talpur chiefs, although in many cases the same were guaranteed to them under promise held to be sacred; in consequence of this their number has considerably decreased, and those who remain are poor, and from the connections they have formed in the country have become naturalized, and are no longer entitled to be called foreigners.

The country in the immediate vicinity of Shikarpore is low, and admits freely of irrigation from the inundations of the river Indus by means of smaller Nullahs, or water courses leading from the Sindh Canal. Cultivation is extensively carried on, and the gardens of Shikarpore are rich in all the fruits peculiar to the country, though mangoes, neim, acacia, pipul, and mulberry trees attain great size. The soil is a rich alluvial, and its capabilities for production are no where better displayed than in the Mogullee district (that in which Shikarpore is situated), owing to the advantages in this respect (possessed by nearly the whole of upper Sindh) being turned to due account, still comparatively speaking only a limited portion of the land is brought under cultivation. Rice and

Juwarree form the great "Kurreef" or autumnal, and wheat the
 Crops. "Rubbee" or spring crop; the former are entirely dependent on the inundations, which commence to be available for purposes of cultivation about the middle of April, and continue until the middle of September. The "Rubbee" crops are raised by means of wells and bunds formed from the inundation.

The soil is so rich that no manure of any kind is used; the inundations bringing with them a certain slimy matter, which appears highly conducive to fertility, the ground is allowed to remain fallow from the reaping of one crop in October, to the sowing of another in April or May, and the same with the Rubbee lands; this rule appears to obtain all over the country.

Water is found at an average of about twenty feet from the surface, and to a depth of sixty feet the finest description of sand is alone observable; with the alluvial soil is a superstrata; a stone or rocky foundation of any description is not to be seen.

All the approaches to Shikarpore are bad, from the country being so
 Roads. constantly intersected with water courses, and no measures being taken to provide bridges, or repair the roads, which are cut up by carts, and the constant traffic of camels, bullocks, &c. A comparatively trifling outlay would obviate this, as also improve the
 Sindh canal. Sindh canal, which, from having been allowed to choke up at its mouth, and get generally into disrepair, is only navigable from the end of April to the beginning of October, whereas it is capable of affording an important means of water communication from the Indus to Shikarpore, for at least nine months of the year.

Shikarpore being in the immediate route for the transmission of
 Trade and influ- merchandize to Khorassan and countries to the NW.
 ence of money tran- by the Pass of the Bolan, has with Dera Ghaze
 sactions. Khan obtained the title of one of the gates of
 Khorassan. Its influence is more immediately felt however in the bank-
 ing transactions which by means of agents it carries on in every in-
 termediate place beyond the Bolan Pass, from Quettah and Kelat to
 Bokhara and Herat; as also in all places of mercantile importance in
 Duties and im- India. Vexatious transit and other duties on goods
 ports on trade. pursuing the Shikarpore route to Khorassan have
 tended to turn much of its former trade, especially in European goods

received from its port of Karachee, into the channel of communication to the NW. by the way of Soomeanee, Beila, and Kelat, the more direct, and at present by far the less expensive route. A revisal of imposts,* together with a settlement of Cutchee, and the suppression of the marauding system in that province and in the Bolan Pass, would revive the trade of Shikarpore, and induce its merchants, who do not want for energy, to purchase largely of such investments as might be cheaply transmitted by means of the river Indus; with the absence of tolls on merchandize in transit, whether by water or land, they would be sure of making a favourable market, coupled also with the protection afforded them through the deserts of Cutchee, which they could only formerly procure at an exorbitant amount of black mail to every leader of a predatory band.

Shikarpore received from Karachee Bunder, Marwar, Mooltan, Bhawulpore, Khyrpore, and Loodhiana, European Imports. piece goods, raw silk, ivory, cochineal, spices of all kinds, coarse cotton cloths, raw silk (China), kinkaubs, silks manufactured, sugar-candy, cocoanut, metals, kiramee (or groceries), drugs of sorts, indigo, opium, saffron, and dyes of sorts. From Cutchee, Khorassan, and the NW. raw silk (Toorkestan,) fruits of sorts, madder, turquoises, antimony, medicinal herbs, sulphur, alum, saffron, assafoetida, medicinal herbs and gums, cochineal, and horses.

The exports from Shikarpore are confined to the transmission of goods Exports. to Khorassan through the Bolan, and a tolerable trade with Cutchee, Bagh, Gundava, Katria, and Dadur.

They consist of indigo (the most important,) henna, metals of all kinds, country, coarse, and fine cloths, European piece goods (chintzes &c.) Mooltanee coarse cloths, silks manufactured, groceries, and spices, raw cotton, coarse sugar, opium, hemp seed, shields, embroidered horse cloths, and dry grains. The various productions of these countries and their prices in the Shikarpore market† have attracted the attention of that energetic body, the Chamber of Commerce of Bombay, and in the article of indigo alone there can be little doubt but that the

* See a list of export, import, and transit duties, based on articles of trade at Shikarpore (by the author) published in the Bombay Government Gazettee of the 28th July.

† A monthly price current of articles in the Shikarpore market is now published by authority.

produce of the Khyrpore, Bhawalpore, and the Punjab countries will form a staple return commodity for merchandize to be transmitted from the other Presidency; silk (raw), drugs, and dyes may also be enumerated as well worthy of attention. The influence of the British Government, and the protection it has already afforded to trade in these countries have had their effect at Shikarpore, evinced in the increasing revenue* and settlement there of influential traders from Loodhiana, Amritsir, Bhawalpore, and other places.

The revenue of Shikarpore derivable from trade amounted last year

Revenue from trade	to Rs.	54,736	0	0
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and lands.

Other tax and revenue for lands belonging to the

town,	16,645	0	0
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Making a total of	71,381	0	0
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divided between the Khyrpore and Hyderabad chiefs, in the proportion of $\frac{3}{7}$ ths to the former, and $\frac{4}{7}$ ths to the latter. The lands and villages forming the Shikarpore Pergunnah, amount to about six talookehs, and about sixty villages, of which four talookehs and twenty-three villages only belong to the Hyderabad government; the revenue of the whole, deducting jahgirs, may be about two lacs annually.

The government of the town is vested in two agents, or governors, Government of the town. furnished by the Hyderabad and Khyrpore Ameers, who have also the duty of the Police of the district, and collection of the revenue.

The climate of Shikarpore is sultry, and the heat excessive from the middle of March until the end of August. There are no periodical rains, though storms are generally looked for at the end of June, or middle of July. If rain falls at that time, it continues for a space of two or three days, but severe falls occur at the vernal equinoxes. The air is remarkably dry and clear. The low situation of the town, coupled with its being surrounded by stagnant pools close to the walls, and a large space of the adjacent country for a considerable period

* The soucars report that the trade has increased nearly one-third during the current year.

being completely under water, would warrant a supposition that this place was exceedingly unhealthy; yet it is not so except for a short period from the middle to the end of September, during which the inundations are drying up, and ague in a mild form is prevalent. Exposure to the sun of Sindh, whether Upper or Lower, during the hot months is invariably attended with dangerous effects, and for a certain period of the year the natives themselves avoid it as much as possible. The hot winds of Shikarpore lose much of their intensity, prevailing generally from the southward, and passing over a considerable expanse of water; they continue however during the months of April, May, and June, to blow till midnight. In the deserts N. and W. of Shikarpore, the deadly simoom is often encountered.

The winds vary generally between W. and S. the former the prevailing. The Easterly winds obtain for a short period during the autumnal, and the Westerly during the vernal equinox. The former often precedes rain. Shikarpore is exempted from a great source of annoyance experienced at Sukkur, Hyderabad, and all other places on the banks of the river, from the Delta upwards, viz. sand storms. The cold months may be said to commence in September, and last until the middle of March. Frost and ice are not unusual, and vegetation assumes all the appearance of winter in a northern climate. After a fair experience of a year's residence at Shikarpore, (the season of 1839 being considered an unhealthy one,) I conceive that with the precautions considered necessary elsewhere, of good houses and due attention to draining, troops might be cantoned at this place without any greater disadvantages than are to be met with in most of our stations in the interior of India. When it is considered that the officers and men of a force stationed here during the most trying months of last year were for nearly the whole period under canvas, or in mud huts, that afforded even less shelter than a tent, and that the inundations were allowed to reach in all directions within 200 yards of the camp, it is only surprising that the disease and mortality were so inconsiderable. I believe that out of a force of nearly 2000 men, the latter amounted to under twelve cases. The mornings at Shikarpore are invariably cold.

Routes from Shikarpore to various places with which it carries on

Routes.	trade, with the estimated distances.
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From Shikarpore to the North and East

To Mooltan, by way of Dehi Ahmil, on the river across the river to

- Azreypore.
- „ Mierpore.
- „ Subzulkote.
- „ Khanepore.
- „ Ooch.
- „ Gullen Garrat, opening of the Ghaut or
Sutledge.
- „ Sooyabad.
- „ Mooltan.

Estimated distances 215 koss; 23 stages for laden camels; occupies from 23 to 26 days.

From Mooltan to Lahore, by way of Chichawntnee, across the Bende Sheikh Morsa.

- „ Seyud Walloo.
- „ Jambia.
- „ Munjee Baba Narmac Shah.
- „ Surakpore.
- „ Lahore.

Estimated distance from Mooltan to Lahore 140 koss; 15 stages, and occupies with laden camels about 18 days.

To Amristse from Lahore 25 koss; or 2 stages.

From Amristse to Loodihana 40 koss; or 4 stages.

From Shikarpore to Dera-Ghazee-Khan the route is by way of Rogan Mittenkote and Dajil, estimated distance 170 koss; 20 stages, occupies 20 to 23 days.

Shikarpore to Jaysulmere by way of Sukkur and Roree.

- Oodenkote (Oodun ka kila.)
- Dandioluk.
- Gottaroo.
- Chomdred.
- Jaysulmere.

* If these distances are compared with those laid down in the late maps of these countries, it would appear that the koss was calculated at about one and half mile; but the idea of distances by the natives is generally very vague, and they calculate more on the time occupied in a journey.

Estimated distance 100 koss; 15 stages, and occupies from 15 to 18 days. From Jaysulmere to Palee by way of Porwin and Jodhpore 120 koss; 16 stages, and occupies 16 to 19 days.

Shikarpore to the NW. to Dadur.

Janeedera.

Royhan (edge of the desert.)

Brushoree (across the desert.)

Kassimka Joke.

Bagh.

Meyassir.

Dadur.

90 koss; 14 stages, occupying from 7 to 10 days.

The routes above the Bolan Pass to Kelat, Kandahar, Cabool, &c.

Above the Bolan. are now too well known to require repetition.

From Shikarpore to the south to Karachee by way of Sehewan,

Shikarpore to Karachee. Karachee, Lorkhana, distance 150 koss; 29 stages, occupying from 29 to 33 days; this road is impracticable from April or May to September as far as Sehewan, and the river is the means of conveying merchandize.

Classical terminology of Natural History. By B. H. HODGSON, Esq.,
Resident at the Court of Nepal.

(To the Editor of the Bengal Asiatic Journal.)

SIR,

Although I think the prevalent humour of the day, which cannot tolerate any other than Greek and Roman names of genera in Zoology, is, in good part, absurd and pedantic, yet as I am told that continued non-compliance therewith on my part will be considered by most persons as a sort of excuse for past and future appropriations of my discoveries in this branch of science, as described in your Journal, I have now the pleasure to transmit to you a series of classical substitutes for my previous local designations. Many other new forms having originally received from me classical appellations (for I am no exclusionist) need not be here noticed: of those that were priorily described by local names the following enumeration supplies, on the left hand, the new